

## CHAPTER NINE

# FRONT SUSPENSION AND STEERING

This chapter describes repair and maintenance of the front wheel(s), hubs, front suspension arms and steering components.

On 4-wheel drive models, the front drive axles and drive mechanism are covered in Chapter Ten.

Refer to **Table 1** for torque specifications for the front suspension components. **Table 1** and **Table 2** are located at the end of this chapter.

### CAUTION

*Self-locking nuts are used to secure some of the front suspension components. Honda recommends that all self-locking nuts be discarded once they have been removed. The self-locking portion of the nut is damaged once it has been removed and will no longer properly lock onto the lower holder threads. Always install **new** self-locking nuts. **Never** reinstall a used nut once it has been removed.*

## FRONT WHEEL

### Removal/Installation

#### NOTE

*The tire tread on the factory equipped tires, for both the front and rear wheels,*

*is directional (**Figure 1**) and must rotate in the correct direction. Prior to removing front wheel, mark the rim with a piece of masking tape (**Figure 2**). Mark it as to which side of the vehicle the tire was mounted and the direction of forward rotation. This is necessary for tire installation as described in this chapter.*

1. Place the vehicle on level ground and set the parking brake. Block the rear wheels so the vehicle will not roll in either direction.
2. Loosen but do **not** remove the lug nuts (**Figure 3**) securing the wheel to the hub/brake drum.
3. Jack up the front of the vehicle with a small hydraulic or scissor jack. Place the jack under the frame with a piece of wood between the jack and the frame.
4. Place wood block(s) under the frame to support the vehicle securely with the front wheels off the ground.
5. Remove the lug nuts (**Figure 3**) loosened in Step 2 and remove the front wheel.

#### NOTE

*Install the tire and wheel onto the same side of the vehicle from which it was removed. See Note at the beginning of*

*this procedure also refer to the direction arrow on the tire side wall.*

6. Install the front wheel.

**CAUTION**

*Be sure to install the lug nuts correctly since the curved side correctly locates the wheel to the hub studs. If they are installed incorrectly, the wheel will not be centered on the hub, causing vibration and wheel damage.*

7. Position the lug nuts with the curved side (**Figure 4**) going on first and install the lug nuts onto the studs. Finger tighten the lug nuts first until the wheel is positioned correctly onto all 4 wheel studs.

**WARNING**

*Always tighten the lug nuts to the correct torque specification or the lug nuts may work loose and the wheel could fall off.*

8. Use a torque wrench and tighten the lug nuts to the torque specification listed in **Table 1**.

9. After the wheel is installed completely, rotate it; apply the brake several times to make sure that the wheel rotates freely and that the brake is operating correctly.

10. Jack the front of the vehicle up a little and remove the wood block(s).

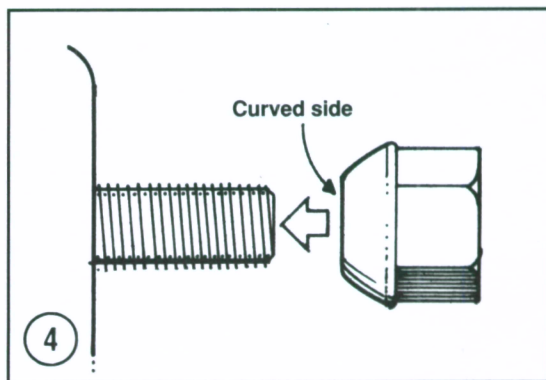
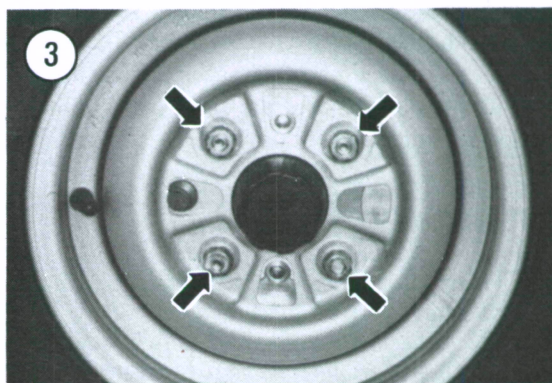
11. Let the jack down and remove the jack and wood block.

## TIRES AND WHEELS

The vehicle is equipped with tubeless, low pressure tires designed specifically for off-road use only. Rapid tire wear will occur if the vehicle is ridden on paved surfaces. Due to their low pressure requirements, they should be inflated only with a hand-operated air pump instead of using an air compressor or the compressed air available at service stations.

**CAUTION**

*Do not overinflate the stock tires as they will be permanently distorted and damaged. If overinflated they will bulge out similar to an inner tube that is not within the constraints of a tire and **will not** return to their original contour.*



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